

KEY SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:28-32

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

- 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?
- 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Ephesians 1:4-5

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

START TALKING

In the fall, new TV shows begin. Which watching style describes you "I watch it live." "I watch it that week." "I wait and binge-watch it." "What, there is a new season?" "I don't watch TV shows."

START DISCUSSING

APPARENT PARADOXES

Pastor Dave reminded us of two passages in the Old Testament that describe God in seemingly opposite ways. It is an "apparent" paradox because it seems like one to us, since we cannot understand how both statements could be true at the same time. But it is not contradictory in the reality of God. **Read Isaiah 46:5-11.** The verses are transcend time and are anchored in eternity past to eternity future. All of history will proceed according to God's good pleasure. **Now, read Jeremiah 18:7-11.** This passage is rooted in time. God's actions change as he responds to the actions of people.

Take a moment to discuss the ramifications of these two passages.

As we look at these verses it is important to remember that they are written to those who "love God" and are "called according to His will".

First in Romans 8:29, the focus is on God's actions; these actions fall into the Isaiah 46 category. You can easily see this because it begins with God's actions before creation (Ephesians 1:4-5) and ends with our glorification at the end of our life and into eternity. He foreknew — He predestined — He called — He justified — He glorified.

Take some time to discuss the implications of God's attention and actions in our lives from eternity past to eternity future.

Now, it does also make sense that Romans 8:28 falls into the Jeremiah 18 category, "all things" speak of the day to day things that happen in our life. Take some time to discuss the implications of God's attention to the moment-by-moment events in our lives.

How Much Does God Love Me

Romans 8:32 is one of the most precious verses in the Scriptures. The logic behind it is that "God did not spare His own son."

Think of the love between the Father and Son.

but delivered Him over for us all.

Think about the horrors of the cross and God's wrath poured out. How will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Think about the thing you feel is missing in your life and reread the verse. What does this verse say about what I feel is "missing?"

Can I trust Him enough to accept that nothing is missing for the life God has chosen for me?